

**Before The
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Investigation into the Natural Gas	:	
Supply Market: Report on the	:	Docket Nos. I-00040103
General Assembly On Competition	:	I-00040103F0002
in Pennsylvania's Retail Natural Gas	:	
Supply Market	:	

**EQUITABLE GAS COMPANY'S
NOTICE TO PARTICIPATE, PENDING PROCEEDINGS
AND COMMENTS**

I. Background

We are counsel to the Equitable Gas Company Division ("Equitable") of Equitable Resources, Inc. in connection with the above matter. By Order entered October 6, 2005, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("Commission") issued its "Report to the General Assembly on Competition in Pennsylvania's Retail Natural Gas Supply Market" ("Report"). As part of its extensive Report, the Commission's "ultimate conclusion" was that "there is a lack of 'effective competition' in Pennsylvania's retail natural gas supply market at this time." Report at 67. In light of this conclusion, the Commission determined that "there is a need to convene the Stakeholders to consider an integrated solution to enhance competition in the statewide retail natural gas supply market," including the examination, *inter alia*, of the issues listed in the Report. Report at 67-69.

By Secretarial Letter, dated December 30, 2005, the Commission indicated its intention to utilize a Stakeholder Working Group to address such issues, established a tentative date for the Stakeholder Working Group's initial meeting and previewed its plan to organize the Working Group into Subgroups that would address related issues raised in the Report. Thereafter by Notice To All Interested

Parties, dated January 20, 2006, the Commission advised that the date of the first meeting of the Stakeholder Working Group had been changed to March 30, 2006, identified the Working Subgroups and the issues tentatively assigned to each and requested that Stakeholders, desiring to participate in the Working Subgroups, file with the Commission (1) a notice to participate identifying their representatives and the Working Subgroups for which they were volunteering, (2) a list of any pending Commission proceedings involving the Stakeholders and any pending proceedings in any court or administrative agency in which both the Stakeholder and the Commission are parties, and (3) any comments regarding the tentative subgroup issue assignments. By Press Release, dated February 7, 2006, the Commission again identified the Working Subgroups, the issues assigned to each and the requirements for participation.

Equitable welcomes the opportunity to participate and submits the following information in response to the Commission's Notice of January 20, 2006 and Press Release of February 7, 2006.

II. Notice of Intention to Participate

Equitable hereby formally notifies the Commission that it intends to participate as a Stakeholder at the meeting scheduled for March 30, 2006 and at any meetings scheduled thereafter. Equitable's representatives and the Working Subgroups for which they are volunteering are as follows:

A. Inter-Company Activity (IA) Subgroup

Stephen C. Rafferty
Vice President, Utility Asset Management
Equitable Gas Company
225 North Shore Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5861

srafferty@eqt.com

412-395-3268

B. Customer Interface (CI) Subgroup

William "Chip" Glunt
Director, Commercial Deal Structure
Equitable Gas Company
225 North Shore Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5861

wglunt@eqt.com

412-395-2633

C. Cost of Service (CS) Subgroup

John M. Quinn
Director of Rates
Equitable Gas Company
225 North Shore Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5861

jquinn@eqt.com

412-395-2515

D. Other Miscellaneous Issues Per Press Release of February 7, 2006

Equitable will identify any other representatives upon determination of the specific miscellaneous issues. Equitable also reserves the right to propose the participation of other representatives, if necessary, depending upon the matters raised during the Working Subgroup Meetings.

In addition, Equitable requests that its Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Daniel L. Frutchey, be permitted to participate as needed and as his schedule permits in each of the Working Subgroups. Mr. Frutchey's contact information is as follows:

Daniel L. Frutchey
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Equitable Gas Company
225 North Shore Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5861

dfrutchey@eqt.com

412-395-3202

III. Pending Proceedings

A. Open Proceedings Before the Commission

Excluding individual customer complaint proceedings, Equitable believes that its open proceedings before the Commission are as follows:

<u>Docket No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
R-00050272	2005 Section 1307(f) Filing
R-00061295	2006 Section 1307(f) Filing
C-20031128	Complaint against Dominion Peoples
C-Various	Customer Billing Complaints

B. Court and Administrative Agency Proceedings in Which Equitable and the Commission Are Parties

Excluding generic investigations and rulemakings, Equitable believes that it is participating in the following proceedings in which the Commission is also a party:

<u>Docket No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>
C-20065790	Prosecutory Staff Complaint re Jacks Run Road Explosion

IV. Comments

A. Subgroup Issue Assignments and Need for General Meeting

In its Notice of January 20, 2006, the Commission recognized that some overlap of issues may occur. Equitable also believes that there will be overlap with respect to certain issues and that the Working Subgroups should be combined for their consideration of those issues. At the very least, there should be at least one general meeting of all Subgroups following the individual Subgroup Meetings before any final report is issued to the Commission. Consolidation into one group with an opportunity for all Stakeholders to comment is advisable and recommended.

B. Waiver of Objections to Participation

As for the matter of the waiver of "objections to the subsequent deliberation and vote on any issues, subsequent petitions, settlements or any further proceedings that result from the Stakeholders Group process by the participation of specific Commissioners and Commission Staff members participating in the Working Group process," Equitable must reserve judgment until it has had an opportunity to review any waiver that is to be signed. At the same time, Equitable appreciates the need for a waiver and is familiar with their use in previous Commission proceedings. The circulation of the proposed waiver on March 15, 2006 in advance of the Working Subgroup Meetings should provide sufficient time for its review and comment.

Equitable looks forward to participating with the other Stakeholders and the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

EQUITABLE GAS COMPANY

By

Charles E. Thomas, Jr.
Thomas T. Niesen
Daniel L. Frutchey

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Equitable Gas Company

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DATE: February 17, 2006

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this 17th day of February, 2006, served a true and correct copy of Equitable Gas Company's Notice to Participate, Pending Proceedings and Comments in the above matter, upon the persons and in the manner indicated below:

BY EMAIL AND HAND DELIVERY

Patricia Krise Burket, Assistant Counsel
Law Bureau
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
P. O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

BY FIRST CLASS MAIL, POSTAGE PREPAID

Office of Trial Staff
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
P. O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street
Forum Place, 5th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Office of Small Business Advocate
Suite 1102, Commerce Building
300 North Second Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Charles E. Thomas, Jr.